

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04675 121346Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /081 W

-----079659 121349Z /64

O 121128Z AUG 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2085

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4675

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PORG, WA, SF

SUBJECT NAMIBIA: STEYN'S PRESS COMMENTS

1. SUMMARY: ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN CALLS ON AHTISAARI TO HELP CONVINCE NUJOMA TO ACCEPT IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. STEYN WARNS INTENSIFIED VIOLENCE CANNOT BE TOLERATED, SAYS HE HAS AN "OPEN MIND" ON THE INDEPENDENCE DATE AND ASSERTS THAT HE AND AHTISAARI WILL DO THEIR "LEVEL BEST" TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE MAJOR ISSUES "ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYBODY." END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE AUGUST 12 THE CITIZEN ACCOUNT OF STEYN'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA ON AUGUST 11 FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04675 121346Z

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

"EMERGING FROM A TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, AT THE UNION BUILDINGS, THE JUDGE SAID IT WORRIED HIM THAT SWAPO CARRIED ON WITH INTENSIFIED VIOLENCE EVEN AFTER THE UN REPRESENTATIVES HAD STARTED THEIR PROVISIONAL INVESTIGATION IN THE TERRITORY TO IMPLEMENT A PEACEFUL POLITICAL PROCESS.

"SWAPO'S INTENSIFIED VIOLENCE SPELLS OUT A GRIEVOUS DANGER," HE SAID.

STEYN SAID SOUTH AFRICA WAS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY AND IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE SA DEFENCE FORCE TO SEE TO IT THAT THE INHABITANTS WERE PROTECTED FROM SUCH VIOLENCE. "A CEASEFIRE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN KURT WALDHEIM, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT HE INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE IT.

"I HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS REQUESTED MR. NUJOMA TO PLEASE STOP THE VIOLENCE. I REPEAT THAT REQUEST AGAIN TODAY. I ASK MR. NUJOMA, PLEASE STOP THE VIOLENCE -- NOT ONLY TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES, BUT ALSO AS AN EXAMPLE OF HIS GOOD FAITH AND A PROOF THAT HE TRULY INTENDS TO LET THIS POLITICAL PROCESS SUCCEED AND TO TAKE PART IN IT, NOT ONLY SERIOUSLY, BUT HONESTLY.

"I FEEL THAT AN INDETERMINATE ALLOWANCE OF INTENSIFIED VIOLENCE WILL BE A MATTER THAT CANNOT BE TOLERATED. IN VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA'S DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY I VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY REQUEST MR. NUJOMA TODAY FROM THE DEPTH OF MY HEART: STOP THAT VIOLENCE.

-- SHOW TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE PEACEFUL. COME AND HELP US AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE TO LET THE PEACE PROPOSAL AND SOLUTION SUCCEED."

ASKED IF THE CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE BY SWAPO WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ARREST DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE, STEYN SAID: "I DON'T WANT TO ELABORATE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04675 121346Z

ON THIS MATTER NOW. ONE CAN EASILY FIGURE OUT THAT VIOLENCE AS SUCH IS A VERY DANGEROUS METHOD TO SOLVE MATTERS, BECAUSE VIOLENCE BEGETS VIOLENCE AND ONCE ONE LANDS IN A WHIRLPOOL OF VIOLENCE WHICH WILL AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO COUNTER-VIOLENCE, IT WILL LEAD TO REPETITIONS OF VIOLENCE AND COUNTERVIOLENCE SO THAT ONE MAY FIND THAT THE PEACEFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF A PEACEFUL PROCESS MIGHT BECOME COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I MAKE A VERY SERIOUS REQUEST TO MR. NUJOMA AND WHY I ASK MR. AHTISAARI, SHOULD HE SEE HIS WAY CLEAR, TO HELP ME TO CONVINCE MR. NUJOMA TO STOP THE VIOLENCE, AND TO ARRANGE IMMEDIATELY A DE FACTO CEASEFIRE TO EVERYONE'S ADVANTAGE."

ON WHETHER HE EXPECTED ANY POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH THE INDEPENDENCE DATE OF DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR, STEYN SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE WESTERN POWER' PROPOSAL WHICH WAS EMBODIED IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

"I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT IT IS AN ABSOLUTE ARRANGEMENT THAT INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY SHOULD BE GIVEN NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 1978, BUT APPARENTLY THIS IS A MATTER WHICH ONE SHOULD CONSIDER WITH AN OPEN MIND."

HE SAID THIS MATTER HAD NOT BEEN PERTINENTLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MR. AHTISAARI.

"I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MENTION THE INDEPENDENCE DEADLINE FOR TWO REASONS, BECAUSE I WAS ASKED ABOUT IT AND ALSO BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HIMSELF, STATED THAT THE ELECTION CANNOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE MAY 18 NEXT YEAR.

"I FELT THIS WAS AN UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER THAT IS STILL TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN MYSELF AND MR. AHTISAARI, AND FOR THAT REASON IS STILL SUB JUDICE.

"I FELT THAT I HAD TO MAKE A STAND WITHOUT MAKING A DECISION IN ADVANCE WHOUT LETTING MR. AHTISAARI FEEL THAT I HAVE TAKEN AN INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE OR THAT I DON'T UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PRETOR 04675 121346Z

WANT TO LISTEN TO ANY OTHER ARGUMENT, OR THAT I AM NOT RECEPTIVE TO OTHER ARGUMENTS. IN FACT I HAD TO INFORM THE WORLD SO THAT MY SILENCE ON THE MATTER DID NOT PERHAPS LEAD TO AN ACCEPTANCE THAT I AGREE WITH DR. WALDHEIM."

STEYN STRESSED THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, THE QUESTION OF THE DATE OF THE ELECTION, THE QUESTION OF THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE, WERE MATTERS WHICH WOULD IN DUE COURSE BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MR. AHTISAARI AND HOPEFULLY OPENHEARTEDLY, HE ADDED.

"WE WILL SURELY DO OUR LEVEL BEST TO ADOPT A GENERAL SOLUTION THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYBODY. BUT IF WE FIND IT POSSIBLE TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, I HOPE THAT THE OPEN AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN US WILL RESULT IN A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING FOR EACH OTHERS STANDPOINT."

STEYN EMPHASIZED THAT HE AND MR. VORSTER DISCUSSED MATTERS CONCERNING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND HAPPENINGS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND ESPECIALLY THE DEGREE OF GOOD RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MR. AHTISAARI. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND AN ELECTION DATE"

STEYN'S APPOINTMENT WITH VORSTER WAS REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR. JIMMY KRUGER, AND WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, SENATOR OWEN HORWOOD. "EXCERPTS END.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, LATER THAT EVENING, STEYN TOLD A MEETING OF THE AFRIKANER CLUB IN BLOEMFONTEIN THAT THE UN MISSION SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS ENEMIES BUT AS A "POTENTIALLY HEALTHY" ENDEAVOR. STEYN ALSO NOTED THE "REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT" OF THE PEOPLE OF SWA/NAMIBIA IN CREATING A "NEW SOCIETY" IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 PRETOR 04675 121346Z

EDMONDSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMISTICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780330-0443
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780870/aaaacgpp.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0bc28264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1758503
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: STEYN'S PRESS COMMENTS
TAGS: PORG, SOPN, WA, SF
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0bc28264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014